



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

February 26, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service has selected Michigan to receive National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$638,408. These funds will make a significant investment in meeting the unmet need allowing school food authorities to purchase the equipment needed to serve healthier meals, to meet the new nutritional standards for schools as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, with emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals, to improve food safety, and to expand access.

The School Nutrition Programs Unit will administer this program, continue to monitor regulatory compliance, and provide support for other USDA sponsored school nutrition programs.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 26, 2014.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

SBE MISSION, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant supports the mission, priorities, and/or policies of the State Board of Education (SBE) and/or Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Equipment Assistance Grant will assist School Food Authorities (SFAs) in purchasing equipment needed to meet the new nutritional standards for schools as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA). Equipment purchased with the grant funds will allow SFAs to serve healthier school meals with an emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables, to improve food safety, and to expand access. Ultimately, the SFAs will be better positioned to emphasize healthier eating habits that support needed energy and well-being for learning and academic achievement for Michigan's children.

PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT

Type of Grant Program:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Designated in Legislation or MDE Proposal |

The purpose of the NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant is to make a significant investment in meeting the unmet need in a select number of states. Grants will be awarded to SFAs via a competitive process, giving priority to high need schools (e.g., schools in underserved areas, schools with limited access to other resources, and age of food service equipment) where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. In addition, priority will be given to SFAs that did not receive a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant.

Outdated equipment can pose a barrier to preparing healthy meals on a large scale. The Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods project, a collaboration between The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, released a report (December 2013), Serving Healthy School Meals: U.S. Schools Need Updated Kitchen Equipment, which focuses on school equipment needs based on a survey of school food service personnel. The findings suggest that while most schools need additional resources to upgrade cafeteria equipment, the equipment itself is not necessarily expensive or out of reach. Estimated costs for the top five needed

items ranged from \$32 to \$1,941. These grants provide additional resources for schools to purchase equipment that will make serving healthier meals easier, safer, and more efficient for school food service personnel.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved: March 17, 2009

Source of Criteria:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Federal Law, Rules or Regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Proposed by Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. State Law or Rules | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Defined in MDE's Approved Grant Proposal to the Funder |

NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants will be awarded to SFAs based on the following criteria identified by USDA and will assist SFAs in meeting regulations per HHFKA:

- Equipment to be purchased will be articles of nonexpendable, tangible personal property with a useful life of more than one year and per unit acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more.
- Opportunities to realize a meaningful impact on nutrition and quality of meals (e.g., replacing fryers with combination steamer-ovens).
- Strategies for adopting smarter lunchrooms (e.g., lunchroom changes that provide more convenience and appeal to the student population, highlighting healthier choices, redesigning menus that target healthier entrees/options).
- Availability of existing local funding for equipment purchases.
- Age of food service equipment.
- Documented need for equipment assistance in schools participating in the NSLP.
- Priority will be given to schools in which 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free or reduce-priced meals.
- Priority will be given to schools that did not receive a previous NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant award.

Additional focus areas may include:

- Equipment that improves safety of food in the school meal programs.
- Equipment that improves the overall energy efficiency of the school food service operations.
- Equipment used to improve or expand participation in the NSLP and/or School Breakfast Program.
- Equipment requests may include new equipment, renovation of equipment, or replacement of equipment.

The following is proposed by staff:

- Requests do not exceed a maximum allowable budget of \$25,000 per food service location.

- Priority will be given to schools identified by MDE as priority and/or focus schools during the 2013-2014 school year.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND TARGET POPULATION SERVED

SFAs that have been approved to participate in NSLP are eligible to apply for the grant.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$638,408 is available for issuing grants to SFAs.

STATUTE

FY 2013 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-6) and FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Act (P.L. 111-80)

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT / PROGRAM CONTACT

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